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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF MARKET RASEN

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Annual Report of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1951

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R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.  
JOHN POTTS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
**MARKET RASEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nettleship and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

A comparative survey of Vital Statistics shows that there has been a rise in the birth rate and a fall in the death rate over a period of years.

An epidemic of measles was responsible for 43 notifications during the year.

The general health of the Urban District appears to have been fairly good, apart from this epidemic.

Indoor water supplies and the provision of water closets still remain far below the standard for a town of this size.

The new housing estate has continued to progress and has undoubtedly relieved some of the overcrowding of premises in the town.

I would draw the attention of the Council to the valuable work Mr. Potts has carried out during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS.

Land	..	..	..	..	..	972 acres
Water	..	..	..	..	..	4 acres
Population (Estimated 1951)	..	..	..	..	..	2,180
Habitable Houses	..	..	..	..	..	745

The Rateable Value of the Urban District on the 1st April, 1951 was £14,320, and the product of the penny rate was £46 5s. 3½d. for the year ending 31st March, 1951.

The estimated population from 1926 at 2,035 shows that there has been a slight increase in population over the last 25 years.

It will be noted that the number of habitable houses in 1945 was placed at 695, so that there has been an increase of 50 houses.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

One death occurred of an infant under one year of age. The total deaths recorded remains fairly low at 28.

Malignant diseases were responsible for only two deaths, but diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for 13 deaths.

I have tabulated the average figures for births, deaths, and deaths of infants under one year of age for the 20 years 1926 to 1950 for which these reports are available. They indicate a tendency to rise in the number of births recorded with a fall in the deaths notified.

### Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year 1951.

			Average for 20 years
Total live births	..	..	42      33
Illegitimate births	..	..	4
Total deaths (all causes)	..	..	28      34
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	..	..	1      1.25
Deaths from Puerperal causes	..	..	Nil
Stillbirths	..	..	1

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	2
Measles	..	..	43
Whooping Cough	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever	..	..	2
			—
Total			49

The average number of notifications over the eight years from 1943 to 1950 inclusive was 14.7 for Measles, 7.0 for Whooping Cough. Measles and Whooping Cough were only made notifiable in 1941. For the 20 years for which reports are available from 1926 to 1950 the average notifications for Scarlet Fever was 3.1 and for Diphtheria only 0.6.

The last case of Smallpox was notified in 1925 while no case of Diphtheria or of the Typhoid group has been recorded since 1943.

The epidemic of Measles which was recorded was also prevalent in the neighbouring parishes of the Caistor Rural District.

65 children were immunised for the first time against Diphtheria. The number of children receiving a "booster" dose was 24.

The number of vaccinations against Smallpox was 15 and the number of revaccinations was 14.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. ..	1	1
Diabetes .. .. ..	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. ..	2	3
Coronary disease, angina ..	1	—
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart disease .. .. ..	3	1
Other circulatory disease, ..	—	2
Influenza .. .. ..	—	1
Bronchitis .. .. ..	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ..	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. ..	4	3
	—	—
Total deaths	14	14

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### 1. Mental Illness.

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after care is carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

## **Mental Defectives.**

The County Council through the Regional Hospital Board makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council remains responsible for the care and supervision of mentally defectives in their own homes. This work is carried out by the Health Visitors.

## **2. Laboratory Facilities**

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, 8 St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Anti-typhoid Serum, and Scarlet Fever Streptococcus Anti-toxin can be supplied by the District Council or from the above Laboratories.

## **3. Ambulance Facilities, Under National Fire Service.**

An Ambulance can be obtained either through the patients' Doctor or Nurse, or in the event of emergency by asking the Telephone Operator for the Ambulance Station.

## **SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.**

### **Nursing in the Home.**

All District Nurses now come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

Treatment and after care of tubercular cases now comes under the Regional Hospital Board. School Clinics remain under the charge of the Lindsey County Council.

### **Hospitals—Isolation.**

All cases of Infectious Disease and Smallpox are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board.

### **Midwifery and Maternity Services**

Administered by the Lindsey County Council. Dental treatment arranged through the Lindsey County Council.

## **Health Visitors.**

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

## **Infant Life Protection.**

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

Arrangements for Dental Treatment are made through the Lindsey County Council.

Registration of Nursing Homes is controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

Orthopaedic cases are now seen at the various hospital out-patient departments and at the School Clinics.

## **Home Help Service.**

Full-time and part-time home helps are now available in the District arranged for by the Lindsey County Council.

## **HOUSING.**

14 new council houses were completed during the year and 5 privately built houses, making a total of 19. A further 16 council houses were in course of construction.

There are therefore, 78 council houses and bungalows now occupied on the Wold View Estate, 64 of these have been built since the end of the war. 15 new housing units have been made available through private enterprise since 1945. This makes a total of 79 new housing units since the war.

One Closing Order was issued on a house during the year.

## **WATER SUPPLIES.**

This was still controlled by the Market Rasen Water Company. A further seven houses have had an indoor supply of water installed making a total of 316 in all. 429 houses have not yet got an indoor water supply. This is a remarkable and deplorable state of affairs in a town which has had a piped water supply available for so many years.

## **SANITATION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

During the year 10 conversions were made from earth or pail closets to W.C.'s. This brings the total of premises with water closets to 414. The number of privies and pail closets still in use is now 331. The number of these is being reduced very slowly. At the present rate of conversion it will take 25 years for all properties to have W.C.'s installed.

Six Sludge drying beds are now in use at the sewage works at Middle Rasen. The presence of sand and an excess of water in the sewage system increase the cost of maintenance very considerably.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION.**

House Refuse collection and disposal has remained good, and is showing improvement in collection due to the increasing use of dustbins and extinction of middens. With the occupation of new council houses this work is increasing, at the same time night-work is becoming decreased. I trust the Council will not loose sight of the lack of tipping and disposal ground locally.

## **INSPECTION OF FOOD**

The local distribution of Milk and Ice Cream sales has been carefully watched and inspections regularly made. What small number of complaints were necessary have been dealt with and verbal approach cleared up the matters.

Local slaughter of animals for food has been small.  $25\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. of Beef were condemned, along with  $194\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of Imported Cooked Ham, 4 lbs. Butter and 156 tins of food of various kinds, Meat, Fish, Vegetables, Fruit, Soup and Milk, etc.

The introduction into use of the Council's approved Food Byelaws has improved the handing and sale of food, especially under market conditions.

Factory Act work locally has been well maintained and only one written Notice of complaint had to be issued.

## SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK FOR THE YEAR 1951 IS AS FOLLOWS

Public Health inspections .. ..	102
Public Health re-inspections .. ..	88
Inspections due to overcrowding .. ..	4
Housing repair maintenance .. ..	46
Infectious disease .. ..	12
Rooms disinfected .. ..	7
Premises disinfested .. ..	1
Verminous premises .. ..	1
Refuse Collections .. ..	30
Refuse Bins .. ..	20
Factories .. ..	57
Drainage .. ..	69
Drainage (tested) .. ..	21
Shops and food .. ..	26
Fried Fish Shops .. ..	3
Meat Shops .. ..	9
Bakehouses .. ..	11
Rats and Mice .. ..	12
Closets and Conveniences .. ..	38
Water supply .. ..	7
Additional visits made during the year not included within the Scheduled number .. .. .. ..	45